सारा प्रबंध और इसकी भागेदारी उन्हीं कर्मचारियों को दी जाये ? इस मामले में सरकार उनकी कुछ मदद करने के लिये तैयार है ?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Would you like to give it to the workers?

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: We will be happy if the workers are ready.

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Sir, as has been rightly said, it is not a simple question of Bengal alone. A majority of workers are from Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that to examine the viability of this Company, the Government itself instituted the Tata Consultants and whether the Tata Consultants, after going through all the papers and other documents, came to the conclusion that with only Rs. 15 crores of investment by the Government—Rs. 10 crores by way of modernisation and Rs. 5 crores by way of working capital — this Company can be put to a position of viability. If so, then on what basis the Cabinet came to the conclusion that this Company is not viable and so it should be wound up? What is the reason that although the Tata Consultants gave a viability report the Cabinet came to the conclusion that it is not viable. On what grounds they came to that conclusion? Through which agency the Government came to this conclusion that it is not viable?

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: Sir, there are so many expert reports. After consulting all the reports the Cabinet has taken a decision. Sir, it s a final decision. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Cabinet members are not experts. What reports have they considered? Tata Consultants are experts. Cabinet members are not experts. They have to appoint some agency An agency was appointed. That agency gave a report that it is viable. Is it a political decision, I want to know.

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव : केबीनेट का बहाना क्यों ले रहे हैं...

श्री सभापति : यह और केबीनेट कोई अलग-अलग नहीं है ।

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Is it a political decision? He should reply to it.

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: Sir, it is not a political decision. It is a commercial and economic decision whether the Government will get benefit or not. It is not a political decision

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 82.

Workers' participation in CIL

*82. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:†
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps have been taken for the implementation of the proposed schemes of workers' participation in the management of Coal India Limited;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

(c) whether it is a fact that certain central trade unions have sought the modification of certain clauses of the scheme which involve workers' interests; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof and what is Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COAL IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI C. K. JAFFAR SHARIEF): (a) to (d) Department of Coal has finalised a scheme to give representation to employees on the Boards of Coal India and its subsidiary companies. This was discussed in the JBCCI. The scheme was further discussed with the trade union leaders on 16-2-1988 by Energy Minister and certain suggestions have been made to make it more comprehensive and meaningful. These are being examined and the scheme will once again be discussed in the JBCCI before a final decision is taken for its implementation.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Chaturanan Mishra.

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र : सभापति जी, कोयला उद्योग की अजीबो-गरीब हालत है कि प्रोडेक्टिविटी भी बढ़ रही है और साथ-साथ ल... भी हो रहा है प्राइस भी बढ़ रहा है तो ऐसी स्थिति में मजदूरों के साथ सहयोग करके इसको एक अच्छी स्थिति में लाने की बहुत जरूरत है और सरकार ने भी इसको स्वीकार किया, लेकिन 4 वर्ष से इस पर विचार हो रहा है और सरकार कोई निर्णय लेकर कदम नहीं उठा रही है इस नाम पर कि ट्रेड यूनियनें एग्री नहीं कर रही हैं। तो मैं यह सरकार से जानना चाहता हूं कि कब तक ऐसा रहेगा जबकि सारे राष्ट्र को ही घाटा हो रहा है ? सरकार कोई टाइम निर्धारित करेगी जिसके अन्दर ट्रेड यूनियनों की राय भी ले ली जाये ?

ऊर्जा मंत्री और संचार मंत्री (श्री बसंत साठे) : सभापति जी चतुरानन मिश्र जी का अच्छी तरह से पता है कि इस बारे में मैंने स्वयं पहल ली है और यह मेरी मान्यता है कि जब तक इस देश के उद्योगों में श्रमिकों को सच्चे माने में साझेदारी नहीं होती, उसके कार्य-संचालन में तब तक हमारा कोई भी उद्योग सही तरह से काम नहीं कर पाता। मुनाफे की बात तो छोड़िये। यह बात सच है कि कोयला उद्योग में जब से राष्ट्रीयकरण किया गया, उत्पादन तो बढ़ा है, लेकिन दाम भी बढ़े। इसलिये कि कभी भी जो हमारा कास्ट आफ प्रोडक्शन होता था, एडमिनिस्टर्ड प्राइस के नाम पर कभी भी दाम नहीं दिये गये, दाम कम दिये गये, प्राइस कम दी गई और इसकी वजह से बढ़ते-बढ़ते अब 13 सौ करोड़ का अक्यमोलेटेड लौस हो गया है। यह बात सच है कि ये सारी चीजें हों, उत्पादकता बढ़े और कैसे हम दक्षिण के मुकाबले में आयें। साझेदारी ही मेरे ख्याल से आनसर है, लेकिन माननीय सदस्य अच्छी तरह से जानते हैं कि मैं पिछले चार साल से लगातार कोशिश में रहा हूं, वे भी उसमें रहे हैं, कुछ निहित स्वार्थ है जो अपनी अपनी जगह पर हैं, सबके हैं। मैनेजमेंट के भी हैं, कुछ कर्मचारियों के तरफ से भी हैं, कुछ यूनियन्स की तरफ से भी हैं और कोई भी यह चाहता है कि पार्टिसिपेशन तो हो लेकिन उनके हितों को धक्का न लगे। इसलिये बात बनती नहीं है। मैनेजमेंट नहीं चाहता है कि उनके पावर्स डायल्यूट हों, ट्रेड यूनियन्स के लीडर्स, सेंट्रल आर्गेनाइजेशन्स के लोग सभी नहीं चाहते है कि उनकी पावर्स में, उनकी अथोरिटी में कोई डायल्यूशन हो। वर्कर्स कहते है कि वे पार्टिसिपेशन से बेकार की मसीबत में क्यों पड़ें और रिस्पोंसिबिलिटी क्यों लें, आज तो सब अच्छा ही अच्छा है, हमारी मांगें पूरी करो, ट्रेड यूनियन हमारे साथ है। इसलिए हकीकत में कोई ही मायने में पार्टिसिपेशन नहीं चाह रहा है। इसलिये यह नहीं हो रहा है।

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र : सभापति महोदय, मैंने यह पूछा था कि कोई टाइम टेबल बताइये जिसमें यह स्कीम लाग हो जाय। आपने तो बहुत सारी बातें बता दी। असली बात का जवाब ही नहीं दिया।

श्री सभापति : इसमें वे आपकी मदद चाहते हैं।

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र हम तो मदद दे रहे हैं और शुरू से दे रहे है। पार्टिसिपेशन का चुनाव हो जाएगा तो सब कुछ हो जाएगा। आप पार्लियामेंट के चुनाव करा सकते हैं और वे बिना किसी रुकावट के होते हैं, लेकिन मैं पूछना चाहता हूं कि मैनेजमेंट बोर्ड से जाना देश के चुनावों से भारी है ? आप इसको क्यों नहीं कर पाते है. हमको यह समझ में नहीं आता है। जब गवर्नमेंट की कोई पालिसी है तो उसको क्यों नहीं कर पाती है ? सब से राय-मशविरा कर लीजिये। सीक्रेट बेलट से पार्लियामेंट के चुनाव हो जाते है और इतना बड़ा राष्ट्र चलता है तो वहां पर आप चुनाव क्यों नहीं कराते हैं ? आप सब की राय लेकर एक टाइम टेबल बनाइये।

श्री बसंत साठे : सभापति जी, टाइम टेबल इसलिये नहीं बता पा रहे हैं कि पहले यह तो तय हो क्या करना चाहते हैं। आप टाइम टेबल क्यों मांगते हैं ? जब तक सारे लोग जिनको साझेदार करनी है, उनका मन तैयार न हो या वे राजी न हो जायं तब तक कैसे हो सकता है.. (**व्यवधान**)। यह कांग्रेस पार्टी का सवाल नहीं है। यहां सारे ट्रेड यूनियनों की बात है। जे० बी०सी०सी० में मामला गया। जे०बी० सी०सी० में क्या हुआ उसको मैं यहां पर खुल-

कर नहीं कहना चाहता हूं। आपकी यूनियनों ने हमारी स्कीम को रिजेक्ट कर दिया... (व्यवधान)। सभापति जी, मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि जे०बी०सी०सी० में बातचीत से ही मामला तय होगा। यह मामला कोई भी सरकार जबर्दस्ती से तो लाद नहीं सकती है। साझेदारी का सवाल है।

श्री सभापति : इसको आप जल्दी से जल्दी करा दीजिए।

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Sir, the point is that the statement given by the Minister while answering the supplementary does not tally with the written statement given by his Deputy, because at the end of the reply it says that it will be discussed in the JBCC before a final decision is taken on its implementation. It means, therefore, that it is in the process of being finalised. But in reply to a supplementary the Minister says nobody in the Coal India Limited, including the management and workers, wants participation, because the exact word he used was:

'धक्का नहीं लगे'

That is, nobody wants participation, including the trade-unions. That is his statement. Therefore, the two statements are contradictory, and it is being done deliberately by the hon. Minister to hide the real truth. Why are the trade-unions being accused of taking an attitude which ultimately means that participation is not meaningful? It is because of certain conditions deliberately being imposed which will ultimately mean that the participation will become absolutely meaningless. We want to be on the board not to share your misdeeds. We want to be on the board to make it viable because public sector is not your wealth, your property; it is our common property. Therefore my question is whether the Government is ready to make our participation meaningful, and if not, why? That is first part of my question.

The second part is, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether Coal India Limited is being dissolved because in the newspapers there is a report that half of the bureaucrats are always in the sky. This is what appeared in the newspapers. There is a mafia gang operating. For the losses, for the price rise, for the accidents, it is very normal for a philosopher Minister to speak here that everybody else in the world is responsible, and he is the only person who is interested in the change. Therefore, can he individually bring about a change? Let me point out categorically that all the trade unions, including our trade union, are interested to be a partner in the participation if the participation is meaningful. What are the conditions you are imposing to make it meaningless? Secondly, whether the Minister would tell us whether they are going to disband Coal India Limited because that will change the whole coal efficacy and if you disband it, the whole thing will change. So the Government must say whether it is dissolving Coal India Limited.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: First I will say about participation, because he has gone from participation up to dissolution of Coal India and about the safety measures, and he covered the entire gamut. So, let me take participation first. I did not accuse the trade-unions alone as not wanting participation, but I said about the seriousness. Four years have been taken only in coming to decide about the modalities of participation. I do not want to accuse this or that. Everybody knows about it. They have yet to decide whether secret ballot should be there, whether check-off should be there and similar other matters of dispute. Do you think Government can force anything? Therefore, it is not a question of accusing anybody. Now, why we are discussing with JBCC where all unions are there, I have said that it is at the level of discussion. Again we will send it back and if certain conditions are not acceptable, let JBCC decide on a formula that will be acceptable and we will consider it. That is how we approach the matter. It is not the way of approaching a matter by accusing you or anybody. You need not feel hurt on this.

About the other thing, there is no truth in the suggestion about dissolving Coal India Limited.

PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR: Sir, the whole issue is of a serious concern to all of us in this House and, perhaps, those outside this House. Coal industry has done well in recent years; perhaps, Coal India is also doing somewhat better. Nevertheless it needs all the sources of additional support to do a lot better than what it is currently doing. The Minister's written reply to the question gives an impression of a sense of activity rather than achievement with regard to the implementation of the scheme. There is a scheme of 1983 which the Ministry of Labour had formulated, and by an administrative order, all public enterprises were supposed to implement it. But the written reply says that some sort of a scheme is still under discussion which was perhaps formulated early this year. The hon. Minister, in his reply, raised a much wider issue, and he very frankly and candidly said that there are also different vested interests which are militating against the spirit of the scheme of workers' participation in management. Now, does it mean that the Government or, for that matter, the Ministry or the Coal India management will apply de *novo* a better technique or approach to see that the spirit of the Government's resolution is given effect to and the scheme is implemented? For this, Mr. Chairman, I would submit: if the issue of Board-level representation is contentious, let it wait; in the meantime, levels lower than the Board could be effectively tapped for invigrating the performance of the process enterprise and its sub-units.

Sir, part (b) of my supplementary is, whereas at all levels we are fighting in regard to the form, I would suggest that let the form wait; in the meantime, so far as the content is concerned, could't a suitable social engineering led by an articulate, Minister like, Satheji could ensure that there is some progress?

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to the hon. Member for his suggestions. As far as the question of starting at the unit level is concerned, we have an idea of implementing this scheme right from the unit level up to the Board level because unless there is effective participation at all levels in the decision-making process itself, real participation will not be meaningful. Therefore, I am thankful to the hon. Member. We will try. In fact, this process is on in various units. For example, in companies like WCL, we have a scheme of participation, informally, through discussion and dialogue. Therefore, we are trying to do this to the best of our ability.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Sir, while participation by labour in management is a desired objective, may I know from the hon. Minister the cost per tonne of coal in India as against that in other countries where similar equipment and technique is being used? I would also like to know, what is the number of labour force required to produce a tonne of coal in India as against that in other countries under similar conditions. One has to take an overall view. The hon. Minister himself knows and we have also read it in the newspapers. The Coal India is overstaffed. Our per tonne cost is excessive. In view of this, though participation is a reply for it, I do think that there is an urgent need for reducing this excessive force and deploying the same in other sectors. I would like to know the view of the Government in this regard.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Sir, it is a question of improving the efficiency of the management and productivity. It is true that we have excessive man power. Our output per man shift is one of the lowest in the world. Our cost per tonne is one of the highest, although if we compare the cost in terms of rupees with the dollar cost and the price, it may appear that it is on par. But this will only be an excuse. When you talk of the cost, you must consider the cost and the price in terms of the *per capita* income of the nation, the purchasing power of the nation. I myself, have been saying that the cost is very high. This being an input,

the cost of power and other things also go up. This has to be considered in totality. We must improve our productivity and also reduce the cost. This can be done only when there is a total approach to the question of improvement of productivity. This is what we have been pleading for. I am thankful to the hon. Member for this.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Quesation No. 83.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Mr. Chairman, Sir... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Kulkarni, he has agreed with you. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Sir, I raised my hand earlier to ask a supplementary. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 83 is also very important.

Power Shortage

*83. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that this year there has been an acute shortage of electricity in the northern parts of the country, particularly in Delhi, and that too during the winter season;

(b) if so, what are the main reasons therefor;

(c) whether in view of the shortage of power in the winter season, the power shortage is expected to be much more acute during the coming summer months; and

(d) if so, what measures are proposed to be taken to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Power shortage during the current financial year in the northern part of the country including Delhi increased due to failure of the monsoon with consequent short fall in hydro generation and sharp increase in agricultural demand.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. A scheme has been implemented to maximise thermal generation to off-set the effect of short-fall in hydro generation and to meet increased power demand. Besides, agricultural demand will also come down during summer months. Other load management measures are also being taken to minimise power shortage.

SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Sir, the hon. Energy Minister, while inagurating the Conference of Power Ministers of the States on 27th February, *inter alia* stated that there is nearly 50 per cent loss of transmission and distribution of power on account of theft. I want to know what steps the Government is taking to see that there is no T. & D. loss on account of theft.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Member is aware that last year there was an amendment to the Electricity Supply Act and that was to make theft a cognizable offence, where a person can be arrested and fined. In every State the State Electricity Boards have been entrusted with the task of prosecuting the offenders. Many cases have been registered where offenders have been arrested, but there is much more to be done. We do not know the exact percentage of this theft but there is a good percentage and we are trying to see that this is brought down with the help of a strong Act.

At the same time transmission and distribution loss is technical and for that we have set up a Committee. We have also instituted an incentive award which has